

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 23-25, 27 and 32-43 is acknowledged with appreciation. The indication that claims 34-35 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claim 34 has been amended to add the word "element" to provide antecedent basis for "said second coupling element" in claim 35. Thus, claims 34-35 should be allowable.

Claims 28-30 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious in view of Ostrand et al. (5,036,753).

Claim 28 has been amended to add the feature that a single coupling element couples a plurality of pivotal vanes mounted in the frame, and the single coupling element is adjusted relative to the vanes between a neutral position in which the vanes are parallel to each other, and a comfort position in which at least some of the vanes are swiveled by the single coupling element in directions opposite each other.

The patent to Ostrand et al. does not disclose a single coupling element movable relative to the vanes into a position in which at least some of the vanes are swiveled in directions opposite each other. The patent to Ostrand et al. discloses three separate and spaced apart coupling elements: coupling element 32 and coupling elements 50 on either side of the coupling element 32. None of the individual coupling elements have vanes that can be swiveled in directions opposite each other. Thus, claim 28 should be allowable.

Serial No. 10/023,596

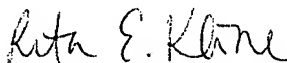
Claims 29-30 depend from claim 28 and are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 28 and for the specific limitations recited therein. Regarding claim 29, none of the prior art, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest that the return spring acts between the coupling element and the frame and including all the limitations of claim 28. Thus, claim 29 should be allowable.

Regarding claim 30, none of the prior art, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest that the return spring acts between the coupling element and one of the vanes and including all the limitations of claim 30. Thus, claim 30 should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



RITA E. KLINE
Reg. No. 48,855

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,
& TUMMINO L.L.P.
526 Superior Avenue, Suite 1111
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072
Customer No.: 26,294